March 8, 2018

Ms. Christine L. Mee
Executive Director, Planning and Research
Coastal Carolina University
P. O. Box 261954
Conway, SC 29528

Dear Ms. Mee:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2017, transmitting the prospectus for the new Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in Music Technology, effective fall 2018.

The 30 semester credit hour M.A. degree program, which is consistent with the mission of Coastal Carolina University, is designed to provide students with necessary skills to succeed in a number of contemporary fields related to music technology. The primary target audience consists of graduates from baccalaureate music programs, as well as potential students who demonstrate media and musical proficiency through a portfolio submission. Students pursuing this degree will use their musical foundation to develop advanced writing and production skills applicable to a variety of media.

The teaching methodology will be traditional face-to-face instruction, with a projected enrollment of 10 students in fall 2018 increasing to 21 students by fall 2021. As a rationale for the new program, the University cites the popularity of current undergraduate courses in recording technology, coupled with student survey responses requesting more technical and entrepreneurial options within the music curriculum. The program was approved by the University's Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. A comprehensive list of all other programs offered by Coastal Carolina University was included. The University has no approved off-campus instructional sites.

Admissions and graduation requirements were provided. The curriculum, course descriptions, and student learning outcomes were also provided along with a definition of credit hours. The M.A. in Music Technology curriculum is directed toward production of a comprehensive portfolio which will be the program's principal method of assessment. Additional assessment tools will include practical application tests, student presentations, course evaluations, and post-graduation surveys. A capstone course in the final semester requires students to produce a professional project in order to assess their expertise in the field of music technology. The program will also be included in the University-wide institutional effectiveness process, which was described in detail. Academic oversight and supervision of the program will be provided by the Program Coordinator, who reports to the Chair of the Department of Music.

The Faculty Roster describes the qualifications of the four faculty members who will support the M.A. program in Music Technology. Each faculty member has a graduate degree in music and/or extensive professional experience in the music technology industry. All faculty members appear qualified to teach their assigned courses. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review teams who will assess the faculty as part of the institution's next SACSCOC accreditation review.

The Kimbel Library provides materials in both print and electronic format that appear adequate to support the instructional program in Music. The Library's collection consists of approximately 479,000 books and eBooks; 32,000 media titles for streaming; and 121,905 journals available through print subscriptions or databases. The University has a physical music collection that includes CDs and DVDs, and multiple electronic resources that are available through the Library's website. Students enrolled in the Music Technology program also have access to external resources through South Carolina's shared resource program, Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL). This program offers a rapid-book delivery program for its member libraries, as well as electronic access to over 330,000 eBooks. Assistance in navigating library resources is provided by online "Libsguide" research guides and by professional librarians, including a librarian with specific expertise in music.

Student support services also appear to be adequate. Along with standard academic support services such as financial aid, student records, and admissions, the University provides support to students through peer tutoring labs, academic advising, career services, and counseling services. The Office of Disability Services provides assistance to students with special needs, and the Office of Veterans Services helps veterans make a smooth transition to post-secondary education. The Office of Graduate Studies will serve as the primary resource for the M.A. in Music Technology students, informing them of available support services, graduate assistantships, and opportunities for graduate research.

The University maintains a state-of-the-art recording facility that functions as an academic space and a professional studio. The Wheelwright Recording Studio has multiple recording spaces including a main tracking room, six isolation booths, and a full soundstage. The studio can record up to 32 tracks simultaneously and contains high definition equipment found in premiere studios in Los Angeles and Nashville. Equipment includes computers for editing work, a digital mixing console, analog-digital converters, a multiband mastering compressor, and 25 professional microphones. Students in the Music Technology program will also have exclusive access to a faculty member's personal recording studio with 2,000 square feet of space, isolation

SACS COC

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rooms, recording equipment, and mixing capabilities. The University's Music Lab provides 13 iMac computers, 13 digital recording interfaces, and 15 MIDI input devices for electronic music programming and recording. These physical resources appear to be adequate to support the program.

Financial support for the program appears to be adequate, with start-up funds already in place to update the recording studios with the latest music technologies. Spreadsheets of estimated revenues and expenses for the first five years of the program were provided. Revenues outpace costs in each year after the program's initiation. The University also has a contingency plan to cover shortfalls in case student enrollment fails to meet the projected estimates.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the M.A. degree program in Music Technology. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for $500 to help defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/SKO:iy

Enclosure

Cc: Dr. David DeCenzo, President
      Dr. John Hardt

South Carolina
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Mr. Jeffrey M. Schilz
Interim President and Executive Director

July 18, 2017

President David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D.
Coastal Carolina University
P.O. Box 261954
Conway, South Carolina 29528-6054

Dear President DeCenzo:

This letter is to confirm that at its meeting on June 1, 2017, the Commission approved the **Master of Arts degree in Music Technology** at Coastal Carolina University to be implemented in Fall 2018.

The following table lists the chronology of the program approval process:

Program Proposal Received	2/1/17
ACAP Consideration	3/23/17
CAAL Consideration	5/12/17
CHE Consideration	6/1/17

The program will be noted in the Commission's *Inventory of Approved Programs* with the following information:

Degree Designation	Title of Program	CIP Code	Site Identifier
M.A.	Music Technology	500913	51001 (Coastal Carolina University-Main Campus)

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs, should you have any questions about the Commission's action.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Schilz
Interim President and Executive Director

cc: Dr. Ralph Byington
        Dr. John Beard
        Inventory file
        Program file